

VASIP/COSIG Steering Committee Meeting Report – January 25, 2007

The VASIP/COSIG Steering Committee met on January 25 at the VACSB offices. The following is a brief description of the content and outcomes of the meeting.

Meeting Attendees:

Ann Benner, VOCAL Network
Mark Blackwell, SAARA – **Interim Co-Chair**
Janet Davis, Region I SA Diversion Coordinator
Sterling Deal, DMHMRSAS, Office of Substance Abuse Services
Sharon Ekleberry, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB – **Interim Co-Chair**
Will Ferriss, DMHMRSAS Office of Mental Health Services
Marc Goldberg, DMHMRSAS Office of Substance Abuse Services
Robin Hairfield, WeCare, Inc., Martinsville
Ellen Harrison, Region I Regional Manager
Leanne Holley, WeCare, Inc., Martinsville
Margaret Ann Lane, DMHMRSAS Office of Substance Abuse Services
Jason Lowe, DMHMRSAS Office of Substance Abuse Services
Janet Lung, DMHMRSAS Office of Child and Family Service
Joanne O'Connor, On Our Own of Fairfax, Inc.
Bonnie Neighbour, Depression and Bipolar Disorder Support Alliance
Susan Pauley, DMHMRSAS Office of Child and Family Services
Mellie Randall, DMHMRSAS Office of Substance Abuse Services
Laurie Rokutani, Mid-Atlantic Addiction Technology Transfer Center
Joe Stallings, DMHMRSAS Office of Substance Abuse Services
Caroline Schleifer, Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute
Rhonda Thissen, DMHMRSAS, Office of Substance Abuse Services
Will Williams, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB.

Project Updates

Sterling Deal and Rhonda Thissen updated the Committee on activities since the last meeting on December 7 and stated that Mark Blackwell of SAARA and Sharon Ekleberry of Fairfax-Falls Church CSB have agreed to serve as interim co-chairs of the Steering Committee until such time that co-chairs are formally elected.

Two notable VASIP/COSIG activities took place in late December. First, on December 20, Drs. Ken Minkoff and Chris Cline made a special trip to Richmond to meet with Commissioner James Reinhard and Assistant Commissioner Frank Tetrick to discuss the integration of the VASIP initiative into the state's larger system transformation process. Both Dr. Reinhard and Mr. Tetrick have been supportive of VASIP/COSIG since its inception and were excited about the idea of our Steering Committee assisting in the developing of an architecture for transformation. Also discussed at this meeting was the idea that the regional planning

partnerships can serve an important role in improving communication flow around transformation from and between the CSBs and state facilities, which comprise the regions, and the Department.

Also, on December 22, Drs. Minkoff and Cline initiated a conference call with leadership of the VACSB, including Executive Director Mary Ann Bergeron and the executive directors of four CSBs: Tom Geib of Prince William CSB; George Braunstein of Chesterfield CSB; Cindy Kemp of Arlington CSB, and Candace Waller of Chesapeake CSB. The purpose of this meeting is to try and engage CSB executive directors in the VASIP/COSIG process and build buy-in for integration activities. During the call, the four execs and Ms. Bergeron agreed to “pass the word” regarding service integration and regional collaboration to other execs and managers. A follow-up call is scheduled with the parties from the December 22 call on February 22 at 2 p.m.

Strategic Planning for Future Steering Committee Activities

Mr. Blackwell led the Committee in a discussion of future committee activities, including the development of several subcommittees as discussed at the December 7 meeting. The Committee agreed to develop the following subcommittees:

(1) Purpose, Structure and Membership: This subcommittee (also known just as the Membership Subcommittee) will develop recommendations for the overall purpose and structure of the VASIP Steering Committee, propose activities for the full Committee’s discussion, and identify additional members or constituent groups that might be invited to join the full Committee. It was agreed that the Membership Subcommittee would be an ad hoc group that will develop recommendations and be dissolved once the full Committee acts on the recommendations. Participants on the Membership Subcommittee include Ann Benner and/or Joanne O’Connor (they will decide together which of them will participate, given that Joanne is new to our system), Mark Blackwell, Sharon Ekleberry, Robin Hairfield and Will Williams. Jason Lowe will serve as staff to this subcommittee.

(2) Architecture of Transformation: This subcommittee will develop recommendations to the Commissioner, the VACSB and upper management at the Department on an architecture for the transformation process. Activities are to be determined. Participants on the Architecture Subcommittee include Mark Blackwell, Janet Davis, Sharon Ekleberry, LeGree Hallman, Robin Hairfield, Ellen Harrison, Joanne O’Connor and Will Williams. Assistant Commissioner Frank Tetrack also agreed to participate. Sterling Deal will serve as staff to this subcommittee.

(3) Welcoming: This subcommittee will develop recommendations for creating a welcoming environment for all consumers at CSBs and state facilities. Participants on the Welcoming Subcommittee include Ann Benner, Martha Kurgans, MargaretAnne Lane and Bonnie Neighbour. Rhonda Thissen will serve as staff to this subcommittee.

(4) Training: This subcommittee met for the first time on February 14 and at that meeting re-named itself the VASIP Professional Training and System Development Workgroup. The stated goal of the Workgroup, also developed at the February 14 meeting, is “To develop a trained workforce that is prepared to treat complex co-occurring disorders in order to improve consumer

outcomes and recovery.” The focus of the Workgroup is to coordinate training of staff, consumers and organizations in service and system integration for integrated MH/SA disorders treatment in adults, children and adolescents in the public service system, which the Workgroup defined as the Central Office, the CSBs and state facilities. Committee members participating on the Training Workgroup include LeGree Hallman, MargaretAnne Lane, Laurie Rokutani and Caroline Scheifer. Several other individuals who are not on the Steering Committee were invited to join to expand the perspective of the group; these include Missy Barker of the Mid-Atlantic Addiction Technology Transfer Center; Susan Pauley of the Office of Child and Family Services; Lisa Potter of Fairfax-Falls Church CSB, and Kristin Yavorsky of the Office of Mental Health Services. Marc Goldberg will serve as staff to this workgroup.

Upcoming Meetings and Next Steps

At the request of Dr. Ken Minkoff, the next meeting of the full Committee has been scheduled for Thursday, March 8 at 10 a.m. at the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, located at 10128-B West Broad Street in Glen Allen. Drs. Minkoff and Cline will join the Committee for that meeting. In addition, a conference call has been scheduled for Thursday, March 1 at 9:30 a.m. with the members of the Membership and Architecture of Transformation subcommittees that will serve as the initial meeting of those two subcommittees. Participants on the subcommittees will provide a meeting report to the full Committee on March 8.

Submitted by Rhonda Thissen

804-371-0802

Rhonda.Thissen@co.dmhmrssas.virginia.gov